

Help Finding Missing Persons in Hospitals

Many patients from Mississippi and Louisiana are being transferred to hospitals in Alabama as resources are depleted in those states. To assist families and friends in locating these patients, Alabama's hospitals have created a searchable database at www.alaha.org. People can enter the full name of a missing person, and the Web site will search to see if he or she has been admitted to an Alabama hospital and will display the hospital name and contact information.

“We are hopeful that we can help reunite family members in addition to providing the medical care that is so desperately needed,” said Mike Horsley, president of the Alabama Hospital Association. “Many of our hospitals in south and west Alabama have been working overtime to assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Hospitals in other parts of the state have also accepted patients being transferred and provided volunteers, equipment and supplies to assist hurricane victims.”

Horsley adds the database will be updated periodically and will be based on information submitted by hospitals, not pulled from hospital records. “We’re going to do the best we can to include as many names as possible, but families shouldn’t be totally discouraged if they don’t find the person in the database since this is a voluntary effort